

Council Memo

Department Source: City Utilities - Sewer/Stormwater

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 20, 2026

Re: Setting a public hearing: consider changes to the hauled liquid waste rates, sanitary sewer utility rates, wastewater connection fees and extra strength fees.

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration, a resolution setting a public hearing for September 8, 2027 to consider proposed amendments to Chapters 13 and 22 of the City Code of Ordinances relating to hauled liquid waste rates, sanitary sewer utility rates, wastewater connection fees and extra strength charges. This public hearing with a 30-day notice period is also required by 250.233 RSMo.

Discussion

Amendments are proposed to Chapter 13 and Chapter 22 of the City Code to adjust the sewer utility rate framework. This comprehensive update aligns sewer utility rates with the actual costs of system operations, maintenance, and capital capacity requirements as outlined in the attached Sanitary Sewer Utility Rate Study.

The proposed adjustments to the utility rate structure are detailed below:

Sec. 13-192(b)(1) – proposed change will:

Increase the fee for waste activated sludge from package wastewater treatment plants and stabilization pond sludge from \$0.049 per gallon to \$0.055 per gallon.

Sec. 13-192(b)(2) – proposed change will

Increase the fee for portable/chemical toilet, domestic holding tank, septic tank and other wastewater not described above in (b)(1) from \$0.092 per gallon to \$0.108 per gallon.

Sec. 13-192(b)(3) – proposed change will:

Eliminate the fee for treatment service availability of \$12.37 per truck load for waste haulers.

Sec 22-263(b)(1) – proposed change will:

1. Decrease the residential base charge from \$12.37 per month to \$11.10 per month.
2. Decrease the non-residential base charge approximately (given rounding variation) 10.3% for each of eleven water meter sizes.

3. Increase the volume charge, for all customers, from \$2.55 per Ccf to \$2.68 per Ccf. (Ccf=100 cubic feet=748 gallons).

Sec. 22-263(b)(2) – proposed change will:

1. Decrease the extra strength unit charge for BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) from \$0.324 per pound to \$0.319 per pound. The extra strength charge is applied to specific industries with a pre-treatment permit.
2. Increase the extra strength unit charge for suspended solids from \$0.222 per pound to \$0.369 per pound. The extra strength charges affect about 7 businesses with a pre-treatment permit.

Sec. 22-264(b) – proposed change will:

1. Increase the sewer connection fee from \$2,400.00 to \$2,800.00 per dwelling unit.
2. Increase the sewer connection fee approximately (given rounding variation) 17.9% for each of eleven water meter sizes based on the size of the water meter that would be required to serve the use of the property.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Changes to the sewer rates and charges are expected to be revenue neutral, however some individual accounts will have an increase and some individual accounts will have a decrease in their monthly bills. Sewer connection fee revenue is dependent on the number of new connections to the City's sewer system.

Long-Term Impact: The Sanitary Sewer Utility Rate Study recommends a 3.25% revenue increase in FY2028 and the following fiscal years.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Environmental Management, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
09/17/2018	B181-18 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code as it relates to sanitary sewer utility rates.
09/17/2018	B177-18 Amending Chapter 13 of the City Code as it relates to hauled liquid waste rates.

Date	Action
09/17/2018	PH30-18 Consider changes to the sanitary sewer utility rate, sanitary sewer utility connection fee and waste hauler disposal service fees.
07/16/2018	R100-18 Setting a public hearing: consider changes to the sanitary sewer utility rate and waste hauler disposal service fees.
09/18/2017	B228A-17 Approved an ordinance to amend Chapter 13 of the City Code as it relates to charges for sewage service and connection fees.
09/05/2017	PH31-17 Public Hearing to consider changes to the sanitary sewer utility rate, sanitary sewer utility connection fees and hauled liquid waste rate
07/17/2017	R94-17 Public Hearing to consider changes to the sanitary sewer utility rate, sanitary sewer utility connection fees and hauled liquid waste rate
09/19/2016	B196-16 Approved an amended ordinance increasing the sewer connection fee from \$1,600 to \$2,000 for residential and 5/8 inch water meters
09/06/2016	PH29-16 Public Hearing to consider changes to the sanitary sewer utility rate, sanitary sewer utility connection fees and hauled liquid waste rate
07/18/2016	R94-16 Setting a Public Hearing: consider changes to the sanitary sewer utility rate, sanitary sewer utility connection fee and hauled liquid waste rate
09/21/2015	B225-15 Approved an ordinance increasing the sewer connection fee from \$1,200 to \$1,600 for residential and 5/8 inch water meters
09/15/2014	B235-14 Approved an ordinance to increase the sewer connection fee from \$800 to \$1,200 for residential and 5/8 inch water meters
07/07/2014	Burton & Associates presented rate recommendations for the Sanitary Sewer Utility at pre-council meeting
03/04/2014	Agreement with Burton & Associates for Sanitary Sewer Utility Cost of Service and Rate Study
01/21/2014	Ordinance 21965 – Declaring the results of the special election
08/05/2013	Ordinance 21760 – Calling a special election of whether to issue the Sewer System Revenue bonds

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution.